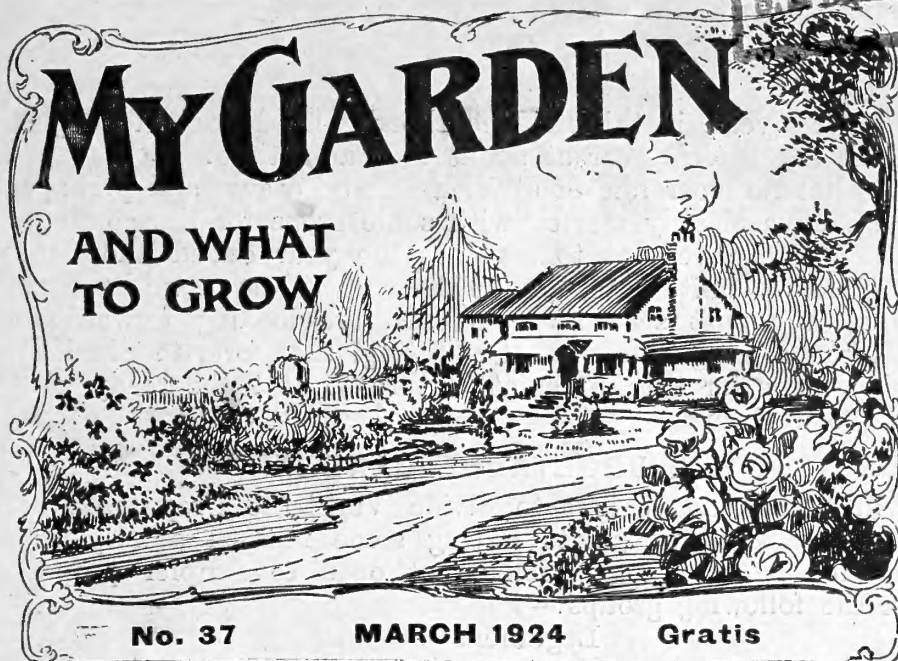


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D. N. Shoemaker,

MAY 12 1924

MY GARDEN AND WHAT TO GROW

The Farmer's year, in this neighbourhood, may be said to begin with April, and the Gardener's year at about the same time. You may differ and imagine that no clear line of division can be drawn and perhaps that is true for we have already started with some crops for the coming rainy season. Yet it is convenient to consider the year ended and begun at some more or less definite date, and at the end of March we have usually cleared up all the past season's crops and are looking forward to the new work of the coming season. It is fitting, therefore, to consider now our gardening plans for the immediate future so as to be ready and well ahead with the work in

THE VEGETABLE GARDEN.

You will find it convenient to divide Vegetable Crops into several groups, each composed of plants having some natural affinity to each other, and thus reduce your problems at once to simpler proportions. We suggest the following groups:—

Legumens
Roots
Brassicas
Cucurbits
Miscellaneous

You will find this classification sufficiently arbitrary to provide ample material for argument with your gardening friends, but at the same time quite a convenient method, and you should not have much trouble in placing each crop in its proper place under this arrangement. In case of doubt you can easily settle the point by reference to one of our recent seed catalogues, where the same arrangement is carried out.

This classification enables you to divide things up when you are considering crop rotation or when you are planning your crops for a suitable succession so as to provide a continuous supply of vegetables for the table or for the market.

LEGUMENS.—In this group we have Peas and Beans of all kinds. The ordinary Garden Peas may be sown this month, but it is somewhat early for many growers. American Wonder and Stratagem are the varieties usually selected for this early growing. Peas generally like cooler weather and many varieties will not thrive at this season.

Cowpeas may also be sown this month but it is getting late for them, too late perhaps for a dry crop. They are really Beans by nature and not Peas, consequently a summer crop.

Broad Beans are usually sown from March onwards. This is one of the first Vegetables to be put in at this season and sowing may be continued for several months at least because they are quite hardy and grow well during the cold months. Most varieties do quite well. You should try two at least for comparison and thus you will in time find the variety that suits your conditions best of all.

Haricot Beans may still be sown for Green Beans but it is too late now to sow for a dry crop. In any case only hardy varieties should be sown, such as Kudu Stringless and Canadian Wonder.

Lima Beans are not likely to mature a crop from March sowing.

Lentils may be sown in autumn and if the weather is not too hot and dry you may begin with them in March. They are used like Beans and are splendid for soups and stews. This is an excellent vegetable and should be much more largely used. Being high in protein, they are specially good for inclusion in the diet of rapidly growing children.

ROOTS.—In this group we include Beet, Carrot, Onion, Parsnip, Potatoes, Radish, Swede, Turnip, etc. Except Beet and Onion these are usually sown in the permanent situation because they do not transplant well. The same treatment is good for Beet and Onion also, but it is not always so convenient. When sowing in the permanent situation it is most important that the rows be well thinned, otherwise the plants will crowd one another and proper root development will be prevented. In fairly cool situations all these crops may be sown in March, but it is still early for them. If Onions are sown you will find the early varieties best for this early sowing, especially Yellow Bermuda. For the purposes of crop rotation it should be noted that Onions do not correctly belong to this group in a botanical sense but the point is not of great importance. More important is the fact that Potatoes do not belong here. The plant is allied to the Tomato, and that should be borne in mind when arranging a crop rotation.

BRASSICAS.—In this group we include Broccoli, Brussels Sprouts, Cabbage, Cauliflower, Kale and Kohl-Rabi. Turnips and Swedes, which we have placed among the Root Crops, are allied plants, and that should be remembered in connection with crop rotation, but it is not convenient to discuss them with Cabbages. Market growers, will by now, have their crops of Cauliflower, and Cabbages also to some extent, well advanced. For a while the labour of watering and caring for them during the hot weather will be considerable, but as soon as the rains begin they will take care of themselves and very soon afterwards the Cauliflowers will be fit for market. The best Cauliflowers are raised in this way but it is also possible to have very nice Cauliflowers for a considerable period by sowing for succession. For March sowing an early variety should be chosen because it will come on more rapidly. The larger late sorts take more time and if they are not matured before spring they will not make satisfactory heads. Much the same applies to Cabbages. The larger sorts are sown first to produce the winter crop and you follow on with the early varieties which grow more rapidly and are surer headers for the later crop. By careful choice of varieties it is possible to have a succession of Cabbage throughout the year, but it is not every gardener who can do it.

CUCURBITS.—This group includes Calabash, Cucumber, Muskmelon, Watermelon, Pumpkin, Squash and Vegetable Marrow. These are all summer crops and need not be discussed now.

MISCELLANEOUS.—We include here all the remaining Vegetables, including Lettuce and Tomatoes. Except the last mentioned practically all of them may be sown in autumn but March is a little early except in favoured situations. It is in these favoured situations that the expert gardener makes his profits by growing Vegetables when they can not be grown elsewhere. We do not pretend to give you advice on these. Experience is practically the only guide to what is possible under exceptional circumstances but it is remarkable how much one can learn in this way in a couple of seasons if you are keen and determined to succeed.

VEGETABLE TRANSPLANTS. Per 100 1000

Beet, Flat Egyptian	...	...	1/3	10/6
„ Starke's Improved Globe	...	...	1/3	10/6
Broccoli, White Mammoth	...	...	2/-	
Brussels Sprouts	...	...	2/-	
Cabbage, Cape Spitzkool	...	...	1/3	10/6
„ Cape Sugarloaf	...	...	1/3	10/6
„ Dwarf Early Savoy	...	...	1/3	10/6

Vegetable Transplants (con.)		Per 100	1000
Cabbage , Enkhuizen's Glory ...	...	1/3	10/6
„ Early Jersey Wakefield ...	...	1/3	10/6
„ Large Oxheart ...	...	1/3	10/6
„ Large Red Drumhead ...	...	1/3	10/6
„ Robinson's Champion Drumhead ...	...	1/3	10/6
Cauliflower , Early Italian Giant ...	...	1/3	10/6
„ Gamtoos Glory ...	...	1/3	10/6
„ Late Italian Giant ...	...	1/3	10/6
„ Southern Cross ...	...	1/3	10/6
„ Veitch's Autumn Giant ...	...	1/3	10/6
„ Wiehahn's Cape ...	...	1/3	10/6
„ Woodside Early ...	...	1/3	10/6
Cape Gooseberries , 2/6 per doz.			
Celery , Solid White, 6d per doz.			
Kale , Chou Moellier ...	...	1/3	10/6
„ Curled Garden ...	...	1/3	10/6
„ Thousand Headed ...	...	1/3	10/6
Kohl Rabi , Large White Goliath, ...	...	1/3	10/6
Lettuce , Curled Neapolitan ...	...	1/3	10/6
„ Woodside Giant Cabbage... ..	...	1/3	10/6
Leek , Large Flag ...	...	1/3	10/6
Mint , Per doz. 1/-			
Onion , Crystal Wax ...	...	1/3	10/6
„ Yellow Bermuda ...	...	1/3	10/6
Parsley , Plain and Curled, 6d per doz.			
Peppermint , Per doz. 1/6.			
Sage, Marjoram and Thyme , 3/- per doz.			
Spinach Beet or Swiss Chard ...	...	1/6	12/6

SEED POTATOES.

The imported seed is entirely sold out and South African grown seed is not yet available to any appreciable extent, thus we have none to offer this month.

FARM CROPS.

The main point at this time is to get in a crop that will provide succulent green forage for the animals. This is very necessary for them after the heat and drought and continual feeding on dry forage or harsh and coarse grazing. The animals will appreciate it and it greatly benefits them. The following are useful:—

GREEN FORAGE CROPS.

	Per 25 lbs	100 lbs	per bag
Emmer (Fodder-Wheat) ...	6/6	22/6	32/6 (150 lbs)
Nepal (Beardless Barley-Wheat) ...	6/-	20/-	37/6 (200 lbs)
Cape Early Barley ...	5/-	16/6	22/6 (150 lbs)
Cape Early Rye (Should be cut when the ears begin to show) ...	4/-	14/-	26/6 (200 lbs)
Berseem Clover Per lb	2/6	—	—
Horse Beans Per lb	1/-	15/-	55/-
Cape Field Peas ...	6/-	22/6	42/6 (200 lbs)
English Spring Vetch ...	10/-	36/-	—
Field Turnips (A very quick crop). Per lb	2/6	—	—
Dwarf Essex Rape Per lb	1/-	15/-	47/6
White Mustard Per lb	2/-	30/-	95/-

POULTRY.

At this season when the stock birds are just getting over the moult they need extra care and extra good feeding, otherwise the breeding season will be disappointing. You cannot expect 100 per cent hatches from eggs produced by debilitated birds and it makes no difference whether the cause is underfeeding or unsuitable feeding. The result is the same—infertile eggs or weak chickens.

The proper feeding of poultry is a matter that requires extensive and careful study, but we simplify it very much for you by compounding foods that are properly balanced and, if fed regularly and with reasonable care and good general management, will give you maximum results.

The following mixtures are essential to good poultry feeding:—

	25 lbs	50 lbs	100 lbs	200 lbs
Starke's Poultry Meal ...	4/-	7/3	13/9	27/-
Starke's Mixed Poultry Grain ...	3/6	6/6	12/6	23/6
Starke's Hen Tonic ...	7/-	13/6	25/-	—
	5 lbs	25 lbs	50 lbs	100 lbs
Starke's Chicken Meal ...	1/5	5/3	9/6	17/6
Starke's Chix No. 1 ...	1/5	5/6	10/-	19/-
Starke's Chix No. 2 ...	1/4	5/-	9/-	17/-
Starke's Chix No. 3 ...	1/3	4/9	8/6	16/-
Starke's Mixed Poultry Grit ...	—	2/6	4/6	8/6

APPRECIATIONS.

Cliffden, East London, 2/1/24: ".....the Cucumbers you sent me, Woodside Cape Stam, have proved most satisfactory."

Alkmaar, Transvaal, 12/1/24: "It may interest you to hear that we carried off the championship for Tomatoes on the Pretoria Show last June from Wood's Improved Beauty Tomato seed obtained from your firm."—Meintjes Bros.

Mosterdsdrift, Stellenbosch, 13/2/24: ".....Myn Roode Kool (Large Drumhead) van uw zaad kreeg 1ste prys op Stellenbosch Tentoonstelling."

THE FLOWER GARDEN.

During the hot weather it is advisable to keep the surface soil moving because it helps to prevent evaporation and allows the air to penetrate, thus keeping the soil cool and in friable condition. A **Norcross** Cultivator is the very thing for this work, it will work close up and around the plants whether they are planted in rows or not. If a **Norcross** Cultivator is regularly used hand-weeding becomes unnecessary—and think of the back-ache saved!

Seeds to Sow.—Where conditions are favourable you may sow the following Flower Seeds during March:—Ageratum, Alyssum, Antirrhinum, Aquilegia, Barberton Daisies, Bellis perennis, Browallia, Calceolaria, Calendula, Canterbury Bells, Chrysanthemum carinatum, Cineraria, Carnation, Cosmos, Candytuft, Cornflower, Clarkia, Cyclamen, Delphinium, Dianthus, Foxglove, Godetia, Gypsophila, Hollyhock, Linaria, Linum, Larkspur, Lobelia, Lupinus, Marigold, Mimulus, Mignonette, Myosotis, Nemesis, Nigella, Nemophila, Pansy, Phlox, Petunia, Pentstemon, Primula, Stocks, Salpiglossis, Viola cornuta, Violet, Verbena, Virginian Stocks, Viscaria, Wallflower and Winter-Flowering Sweet Peas.

Don't forget the Barberton Daisies. They are beautiful, so splendid for vase decoration, you cannot be without them; and they must be sown this month or next at the latest, for the seed will soon lose its germinative power.

STOCKS OF NICE.

	Seed.	Plants.
	Per pkt.	oz. Per doz.
Abundance , carmine rose, large ...	6d	15/- 1/3
Almond Blossom , white, shaded carmine	6d	15/- 1/3
Beauty of Nice , flesh pink, early flowering	6d	15/- 1/3
Crimson King , brilliant fiery scarlet ...	6d	30/-
Kiris , dark violet ...	6d	15/- 1/3
Empress Elizabeth , beautiful bright rose	6d	15/- 1/3
L'Etincelante , dazzling scarlet, superb	6d	15/- 1/3
Monte Carlo , soft canary yellow ...	6d	15/- 1/3
Mont Blanc , improved white ...	6d	15/- 1 3
Queen Alexandra , pretty rosy lilac ...	6d	15/- 1/3
Rose Queen , brilliant deep rose ...	6d	30/-
Souvenir of Monaco , brilliant crimson, very early	6d	15/-
Violet of Nice , a rich colour ...	6d	15/- 1/3
White Christmas , very free flowering ...	6d	30/-
White Lady , a superb white ...	6d	15/- 1/3
"Nice" Varieties, Mixed , including nearly all the above	6d	15/- 1/-
German Ten Weeks , a superb strain, mixed colours	6d	15/-

BEDDING PLANTS.

	Per doz.
Aquilegia , Long-Spurred Hybrids ...	2/6
Bellis Perennis ...	1/-
Canterbury Bells , year old plants ...	3/6
Carnation , Margaret-Malmaison ...	2/6
Delphinium , Blue Butterfly ...	1/6
Dianthus laciniatus ...	1/-
Foxgloves , Mixed ...	2/-
Hollyhocks , Mixed ...	1/6
Gazania pinnata, yellow daisy ...	2/-
Phlox Drummondii , Mixed ...	1/-
Salvia , Scarlet-Flowering Sage ...	5/-

PRICE ALTERATIONS.

Wooden Garden Labels (Heavy quality), 8-in. 6/-, 10-in. 7/- per 100.
 "Teswain" Powder Blowers, 10/6 each.
 Galvanized "Sovereign" Sprayers, 5/- each.

BULBOUS FLOWERING PLANTS.

With most bulbs it is very important to get them planted as early as possible after the worst of the Summer heat is over, so as to give them plenty of time to develop a good root system before the leaf growth commences, otherwise it is almost impossible to obtain flowers with long stems and plenty of substance.

If you have not already sent in an order for bulbs you should do so without delay; few plants are more effective when in flower than bulbs and most of them are the easiest things in the world to grow.

It is now possible to obtain cheap lines in almost all classes of bulbs, so that massing for effect can be done at a very reasonable cost.

In Daffodils, "Cervantes" is a splendid variety for this purpose and does well almost anywhere. Double Daffodils, Narcissus, and the Poetaz Hybrids are also excellent for massing.

Amongst the Gladioli the variety "Halley" is a very strong grower and produces immense spikes and at its low price can very well be used for this purpose.

The Hybrid types are also excellent, yet one can scarcely do better than with the dwarf types, which so much resemble our native "Painted Lady" Gladiolus, their delicateness is superb.

Hyacinths when planted in either a double or single row along the edge of a drive or footpath are very effective, they are easily grown where the soil is well drained. These are offered in various colours at a moderate price, yet if you feel prepared to spend a little more on these beautiful flowers, South African grown bulbs of the variety L'Innocence are well worth the extra cost; it is a good grower and produces remarkably fine flowers under ordinary garden conditions.

The Rhizomatous Irises should find a place in every garden, some varieties are exceptionally hardy and increase rapidly, flowering freely during the Summer months when little else is in bloom; even when not in bloom their foliage is most effective. The following varieties are particularly good growers:—Askabad, Florentina, Gigantea, and Purple King.

Little need be said about Anemones and Ranunculus, they are well known, are particularly free flowering, giving a vast range of types and colours. For massing they are in a class by themselves.

Antholyza Præalta is an extremely hardy Cape bulb, and should be massed in those parts of the garden where nothing else will thrive, they are very showy when in flower and can stand considerable shade if necessary.

Any of the Tritonias make a very pretty show, especially along the edges of flower beds; they are hardy, free flowering and multiply rapidly.

One need say nothing about Watsonias—you know how effective they are; have you grown the scarlet variety Angusta, it is magnificent, flowering a little later than most varieties.

Zephyranthes candida at the price quoted affords a unique opportunity for filling up parts of the garden with something which remains green all through the year, and if given a good soaking in mid Summer they immediately come into flower, when they make a grand show.

You surely have a spot in the border for Cannas; they are magnificent, producing one mass of bloom for fully four months of the Summer; the colours are wonderful. They like a rather damp situation, but will do well almost anywhere.

Don't forget to try a few bulbs in bulb fibre, they require but little attention and will prove very decorative when in bloom.

All the varieties we have mentioned are described in that little Bulb Catalogue that we sent out last month. There are still a few copies left and if yours did not reach you, or if you would like one sent to a friend, just send us a postcard about it.

Have you ever thought how much a little present of Cape Bulbs would be appreciated by your friends over the sea? They are easily sent by post. Just send us your list and we will pack and despatch them for you.

We give below a list of kinds that are South African so that you can choose from these and not send bulbs that are easily obtained in other countries. Descriptions will be found in the Bulb Catalogue.

SOUTH AFRICAN BULBS.

				Each	per doz.
Agapanthus (African Lily)	...	...	...	9d	7/6
Amaryllis Belladonna (March Lily)	...	...	...	9d	6/-
Antholyza praealta (Cape Antholyza)	...	...	...	6d	2/6
Babiana , Purple	...	...	...	1/-	10/-
.. Red	...	...	...	1/-	10/-
.. Stricta	...	...	...	6d	4/6
.. White	...	...	...	1/-	10/-
.. Mixed	...	...	...	—	6/-
Crinum longifolium	...	...	...	2/-	—
Cyrtanthus (Ifafa Lily)	...	...	...	—	2/6
Cyrtanthus obliquus	...	...	...	2/-	—
Dierama pendula	...	...	...	1/-	10/-
Freesia refracta	...	...	...	—	1/6
Galtonia candicans	...	...	...	9d	6/-
Haemanthus coccineus (Maartbloem)	...	...	...	2/6	—
Ixia maculata (Kalossie, Yellow)	...	...	...	—	1/6
.. patens (Pink Kalossie)	...	...	...	—	1/6
.. White Branching (Kalossie)	...	...	...	—	2/-
.. Mixed	...	...	...	—	1/6
Lachenalia aurea	...	...	...	6d	4/6
.. pendula	...	...	...	6d	4/6
.. tricolor	...	...	...	6d	4/6
Montbretia , Mixed	...	...	...	—	2/-
Nerine sarniensis (Red Nerine)	...	...	...	1/-	10/-
Ornithogalum aurea (Orange Chinkerichee)	...	...	...	6d	4/6
.. lacteum ("Darling" Chinkerichee)	...	...	...	—	2/-
.. thyrsoides ("Cape" Chinkerichee)	...	...	...	—	1/6
Sparaxis , Mixed	...	...	...	—	2/-
Tritonia crocata (Orange Tritonia)	...	...	...	—	2/6
.. hyalina (Pink Tritonia)	...	...	...	—	3/6
.. lineata (Veined Tritonia)	...	...	...	—	6d
Vallota purpurea (Knysna Lily)	...	...	...	2/-	—
Watsonia angusta (Scarlet Watsonia)	...	...	...	—	1/6
.. iridifolia (Cream Watsonia)	...	...	...	6d	3/6
.. marginata	...	...	...	9d	6/-
.. meriana ("Sierknol")	...	...	...	—	2/6
.. rosea	...	...	...	—	1/6
.. rosea var. alba Arderne's Watsonia	...	...	...	—	2/6
.. "Rosy-Pink"	...	...	...	6d	3/6
Zantedeschia aethiopica (Cape White Arum)	...	...	...	6d	4/-

KIRSTENBOSCH IN MARCH.

Various species of Oxalis or Sorrel appear from now onwards. These bright little flowers, very suitable for borders and cobbled paths, deserve a wider recognition.

Turning round one of the Cape Holly trees at the Bath is a species of Dolichos, whose splendid spikes of purplish-pink flowers are exceedingly graceful and conspicuous. It flowers profusely, and like the Black-eyed Susan, also a twiner, has a long flowering period.

GARDENING DEMONSTRATIONS.

The Botanical Society has instituted a series of demonstrations in South African gardening and kindred subjects.

These gatherings are held at Kirstenbosch at 3 p.m. on the third Saturday of each month, and are open to all interested in the work of the Society. Seeds of wild flowers are frequently distributed. Arrangements as to Buses, etc., will be published in the daily papers.